

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

The sixth volume of the Henry Irving Shakespeare has been issued by Scribner & Welford after some delay caused by the illness of the editor, Mr. Frank A. Marshall. This volume contains the plays of "Othello," "Antony and Cleopatra," "Coriolanus" and "King Lear." A plausible explanation is that it was intended to print "Hamlet" here instead of one of the four plays given, but that the revision of the proofs had not been finished when Mr. Marshall's health broke down. Two new artists are represented here, the illustrations to "Antony and Cleopatra" being by Mr. Maynard Brown, and those to "Coriolanus" by Mr. W. H. Margetson. We cannot say that the new work is an improvement upon that of Mr. Gordon Brown. Mr. Maynard Brown has failed to give a single adequate rendering of Cleopatra, who is represented for the most part as rather coarse and common looking; while Mr. Margetson's Roman citizens, senators and warriors are exasperatingly clownish and clumsy, and his whole work distinctly of a lower type than Mr. Gordon Brown's. The introductions have been written by Mr. Joseph Knight, and Messrs. Wilson Verity and Arthur Symons. They are interesting, clear and sufficiently full, and the notes are as usual distinguished by great conservatism and sanity of judgment.

"The True Story of Hamlet and Ophelia," by Frederica Beardseye Gilchrist (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.), is a curious book, combining much careful and intelligent study with some of the most fantastic crotchetts. The main line of interpretation issues from one of the most remarkable readings in all Shakespearean emendation, and that is saying a good deal. In Hamlet's soliloquy, after the disappearance of Ophelia, he says:

"O, all you host of heaven! O earth! What else? And shall I couple? O, let Hold hold, my heart; And you, my shews, grow not instant old. But bears me stiffly up."

These lines are expressive of astonishment and mental confusion, but Miss (or Mrs.) Gilchrist puts an entirely new and hitherto unsuspected meaning into the first-half of the second line by reading it thus:

"And shall I couple? Hell?"

In this way Hamlet is made to refer to the question of his marriage and to indicate his futile policy, while at the same time he shows himself familiar with a profane expression too common in the mouths of modern roughs and rowdies, but hardly synchronous with the mode of swearing that obtained in the Elizabethan era. The difficulty with this author is evidently an excess of zeal over knowledge, and consequently her book is likely to have no higher value than consists in the oddity and absurdity of the new reading we have cited.

Ludwig Heilevsky contributed a series of bright papers to "Les Lettres et Les Arts" under the head of "Notes d'Avouement." These have now been published in book form (Paris: Colmann; New York: W. E. Jenkins), and offer some interesting and graceful recollections of the war with Germany, the siege of Paris and the Commune. M. Heilevsky sketches vividly yet lightly, and there is plenty of dramatic force and occasional pathos in his little canvaes, which also abound in quiet humor and quick observation.

W. E. Jenkins sends in two books by "Gyp," whose fecundity and satirical keenness seem to increase with the years! "One! Les Psychologues" is a volume of semi-dramatic dialogues, the main object of which is to keep rideau-upon the psychological novelists and their imitators. It is needless to tell such as know "Gyp" that her work is done thoroughly, brilliantly and with refreshing lightness of touch, and that there is more drollery than bitterness in her criticism. "Boys" is a continuation of the war with Germany, the siege of Paris and the Commune. M. Heilevsky sketches vividly yet lightly, and there is plenty of dramatic force and occasional pathos in his little canvaes, which also abound in quiet humor and quick observation.

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The last volume issued in the "Collection Guillaume" (Paris: Marpon et Flammarion; New York: W. R. Jenkins) is Alphonse Daudet's "Jack." It appears in a single thick volume of over 700 pages, and is consequently somewhat unwieldy. The illustrations, by Myrbach, are of the process order, and executed with care and success. It seems a pity that the book was not divided into two volumes, as usual, for its present form it will be difficult to bind it conveniently, while if left unbound it is sure to come to pieces.

The controversy over the landing of the Northern has been renewed by the publication of a letter addressed by Eben Norton Horsford to Judge Day, president of the American Geographical Society, in answer to statements in Justice Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History of the United States." Mr. Horsford adduces a mass of evidence in confirmation of the story of the Sagas, and claims to have discovered clear traces of the residence of the Northern on American soil. The probability that priority of discovery belongs to Leif Erikson and his men is not so strong that fresh interest attaches to all contributions to the discussion. Mr. Horsford writes with an assurance based upon careful and patient investigation, and having vindicated his own conclusions, he carries the case into Africa by attacking Mr. Winsor's history of the founding of Boston, and changing him with haste and unsupported conclusions. The pamphlet is handsomely illustrated by heliotype and furnished with maps and tracings.

The fourth annual "Review of the New York Musical Season" by Mr. H. E. Krehbiel has been published by Novello, Ewer & Co. All musicians and music-lovers know how valuable for purposes of record and reference are these volumes. This one, setting forth the programmes and criticising the performances of 1888-89, is no less accurate and suggestive than its predecessors. It is unlike them in one particular, in that it has been enlarged to include various comments on the work of the American choral societies. This is an admirable addition.

New Publications.

D. APPLETON & CO. PUBLISH THIS DAY:

L.

CHRISTIANITY AND AGNOSTICISM.

M. CONTOURSIE. Consisting of Papers by HENRY WACE, D. D., Prof. THOMAS H. HUXLEY, THE BISHOP OF BIRKBRIDGE, W. H. MALLORY, and Mrs. HUMPHREY WARDE, 12mo. Cloth, \$1. paper cover, 50 cents.

The author took in the recent controversy between Rev. Dr. Henry Ware, Principal of King's College, London, and Prof. Huxley over the question of the true significance of agnosticism, and incidentally of the limits of natural knowledge, and the difficulty of getting at the complete discussion when scattered through different publications, have induced the publishers to bring the articles together in a single volume. To these have been added W. H. Mallock's article, "Cowardy Agnosticism," the "New Reformation," by Mrs. Humphry Ward.

11.

THE LIGHT OF HER COUNTEUNANCE.

N. NOVEL. By H. B. BOYESON, author of "A Daughter of the Philistines," &c. APPLETOWN & CO. AND COUNTRY LIBRARY. 12mo. Paper cover, 50 cents. Also in cloth, 75 cents.

The scenes of this story open in New York, but the action soon shifts to Italy. The characters are mainly Americans and English. The incidents are fresh and picturesque, and the movement animated.

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